



SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness · Response · Recovery

Winter

2017

Annual 'Missouri Hope' Exercise Provides Realistic Training for Future Responders

The fourth annual Missouri Hope disaster response field exercise was held Oct. 7-9 at the Mozingo Outdoor Education and Recreation Area in rural Nodaway County. The exercise is designed to be a full immersion disaster response field training experience for students from Northwest Missouri State University's emergency disaster management program, as well as a multi-jurisdictional exercise for local, regional and state partner agencies.

Each fall the exercise is hosted by NWMSU in Maryville. It is sponsored by the Consortium for Humanitarian Service and Education, a nonprofit organization involving faculty from NWMSU and other partner educational institutions across the nation. The objective is to provide intensive, profession-based opportunities for domestic and international disaster relief and humanitarian workers to practice safe and effective operations.

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'Safer, Stronger Missouri Week' Highlights Advances in Disaster Response and Recovery



From left, Scott Decker of Catholic Charities, homeowner Don Atteberry and Gov. Jay Nixon on the front porch of Atteberry's rebuilt Joplin home.

From Oct. 24 to 27, Gov. Jay Nixon participated in eight events around the state, including walking part of the path of the 2011 Joplin tornado, to highlight Missouri's advances in emergency preparedness and disaster recovery. What was called "Safer, Stronger Missouri Week," gave the Governor the opportunity to be updated on everything from Missouri's interoperable public safety radio network to planning coordination with faith-based and volunteer groups on disaster recovery.

The Governor also used the events to thank many of the people and organizations that have partnered with the state to help advance response and recovery capabilities.

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Director's Letter

"In the more than two years I have served as SEMA director, I have seen at every level an unwavering dedication to being better than we were before and that has been extremely gratifying."

Ron Walker

If I had to choose one aspect of Missouri's emergency management community I am most proud of, it would be our collective commitment to continually strengthening our state's disaster response and recovery capabilities. In the more than two years I have served as SEMA director, I have seen at every level an unwavering dedication to being better than we were before and that has been extremely gratifying.

PREPAREDNESS SUCCESS STORIES

To draw attention to the disaster preparedness and recovery advancements Missouri's emergency management partners have made together, Gov. Nixon traveled around the state during "Safer, Stronger Missouri Week," in October. The Governor participated in events in eight different locations across the state to receive updates on response and recovery capabilities and to thank the people and organizations that have partnered so closely with the state.

STATEWIDE EARTHQUAKE DRILL

Another recent success story was the strong participation in the 2016 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill. This year, more than 555,000 Missourians took part in the annual drill.

TORNADO AND SEVERE STORMS PREPAREDNESS

In March, Missouri will conduct the 42nd annual Statewide Tornado Drill. This year the drill will be conducted on Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m., which is a change from previous years when the drill was held in the early afternoon. If severe weather is expected on March 7, the drill will be moved to March 9 at 10 a.m.

Missouri has not experienced a tornado death in 2016. That is four years in a row without a tornado death. I hope this does not lead to complacency about the tornado threat. The annual

tornado drill is just one part of Missouri Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 6-10. Monday, March 6, is Preparedness Day, Wednesday is Flash Flood Safety Day, Thursday is Severe Thunderstorm Day and Friday is NOAA Weather Radio Day.

I will remind you that in 2015, Missouri experienced 27 flooding deaths, more than the previous seven years combined and the highest total since 1993. Twenty-three of the 27 who died had been in motor vehicles. I cannot stress enough how important I believe it is to emphasize to people how dangerous it is to attempt to cross flooded low-water crossings.

A NEW SEMA NEWS FEATURE

The ninth and final Missouri emergency management regional profile ran in the fall issue, so to continue building familiarity in our community, we decided to start a new profile series, this time about SEMA. Beginning with this issue of **SEMA News** and continuing through the next year or so, we will profile a different SEMA division. We'll tell you about its primary roles, responsibilities and functions and include a biography of the division director. In this issue you'll become better acquainted with the Preparedness Division and its director, Melissa Friel. I hope you enjoy getting to know us better.

Ron Walker, Director
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency



Earthquake Awareness Month an Ideal Time to Prepare for Hazard

No one can predict when an earthquake will occur, but many seismologists agree that large earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone still pose a risk to the region. According to the Missouri Geological Survey, the NMSZ is one of the most active seismic zones in the nation, with more than 200 tiny, but measurable quakes occurring every year. Because of this continuing activity, experts believe it's only a matter of time before southeast Missouri experiences a major earthquake like the ones that occurred there from 1811 to 1812, some of the country's most powerful earthquakes on record.

To remind Missourians about the earthquake risk and to help them be prepared, each February Missouri observes Earthquake Awareness Month.

DEVASTATING POTENTIAL

According to current estimates, a catastrophic earthquake could displace more than 840,000 Missourians and nearly 240,000 would require emergency shelter. In addition, as many as 130,000 pets could be left homeless. There could be thousands of casualties.

During Earthquake Awareness Month in February, Missourians are encouraged to learn about earthquakes and their related hazards and explore how to become prepared. Resources for families, schools and businesses are available on SEMA's Earthquake Preparedness Web page. Included are fact sheets, interactive maps and educational videos. Go to: sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness.

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More than 550,000 Missourians Take Part in ShakeOut Drill



Fifth graders at East Elementary School in Jackson participate in the Oct. 20 ShakeOut drill.

More than 550,000 Missourians were among 2.96 million people in 14 states participating in the 2016 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill on Oct. 20. This year's participation was the second highest ever in Missouri. The record was set in 2013 with a statewide participation of 583,909.

During the ShakeOut drill, participants practice the "Drop, Cover and Hold On" technique for 60 seconds: drop to the ground, take cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it until the shaking stops. Experts say this is the correct procedure to follow in developed countries with modern construction standards.

Though many Missourians may not realize it, earthquakes happen nearly every day in the NMSZ, but most are too small to be felt. Earthquakes occur without warning, which is why people should know what to do before an earthquake happens.

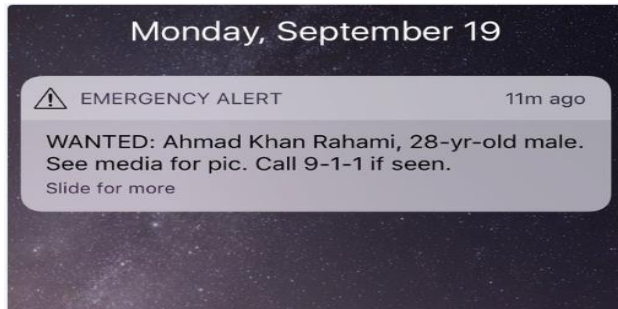
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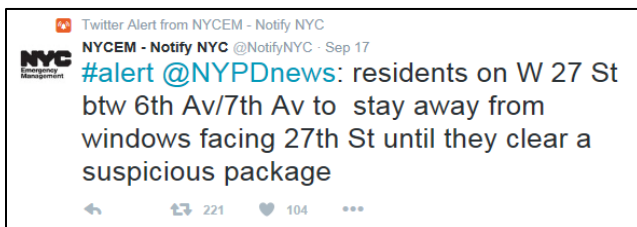
NYC Uses Twitter to Alert People About Bombing Suspect



At 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, Twitter users in New York City were startled by an unusual message on their mobile devices. It was an alert from the NYC Office of Emergency Management and it read, "WANTED: Ahmad Khan Rahami, 28-year-old male. See media for pic. Call 9-1-1 if seen."

The emergency alert notification was sent out to mobile phones regarding the man suspected of playing a role in a series of blasts that terrorized New York and New Jersey the previous weekend.

The notification was sent out geographically to the city's five boroughs, though anyone traveling through the city at that time would also have received the message. Another alert was sent to residents of Chelsea, a Manhattan neighborhood, following reports of an explosion.



At a news conference later, Mayor Bill de Blasio said it was the first use of the Twitter emergency alert message for this purpose. He also said authorities decided to use it because they had specific information they wanted to get out to a broad group of people and they would use it again.

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Severe Weather Awareness Week and Statewide Tornado Drill Encourage Storm Preparedness

In preparation for Missouri's severe weather season, the National Weather Service, SEMA and local emergency management offices across the state will use Missouri Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 5 -11, to urge Missourians to be prepared for storms that can cause deadly tornadoes and destructive flooding.

Missouri's 42nd annual Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. This is a change from previous years when the drill was held in the early afternoon. This year, Missouri, Illinois and Kansas will be conducting their annual tornado drills at the same time. If severe weather is in the forecast for March 7, the drill will be moved to Thursday, March 9 at 10 a.m.

Outdoor warning sirens and weather alert radios across the state will sound, signaling the beginning of the statewide tornado drill and indicating that Missourians should practice taking shelter. The entire drill can be completed in a matter of minutes and is complete when everyone is accounted for in designated shelters.

The safest shelter location is the basement or an interior room in the lowest level of a building.

"As we've learned all too well here in Missouri, severe storms can strike anywhere and at any time with devastating results," said State Emergency Management Agency Director Ron Walker. "It's imperative for folks to understand that just some basic knowledge, planning and preparation can literally mean the difference between life and death."

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State Emergency Management Agency Profile: Preparedness Division

SEMA's Preparedness Division is one of the agency's four divisions. The others are Response, Recovery and Fiscal.

The Preparedness Division is a multi-faceted unit with different but related functions. It develops coordinated statewide response plans and provides training for local and state personnel so Missouri effectively responds to emergencies and disasters. The Preparedness Division also has statewide responsibility for all-hazards, medical countermeasures, radiological emergencies and earthquake planning and preparedness activities. Also housed within the division are the state emergency response training and exercise programs and the emergency human services program.

One of the division's key roles is developing and maintaining the State of Missouri Emergency Operations Plan and State Hazard Analysis.

EMERGENCY HUMAN SERVICES

The Emergency Human Services unit is led by the statewide volunteer coordinator and works with local, state and federal agencies and faith-based and volunteer organizations to coordinate assistance during disasters. During disaster recovery, EHS provides technical assistance to local long-term recovery committees. The volunteer coordinator and EHS staff also serve as the point of contact for the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery, Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and Community Organizations Active in Disasters.

The Partnership is an essential part of Missouri's disaster response and recovery model and enhances the ability to respond to and recover from disasters. This is accomplished by maximizing public and private resources to assess survivors' needs, provide initial human services and address housing, infrastructure, community and economic development issues.



**Melissa Friel,
Preparedness
Division Director**

Melissa Friel has served as director of SEMA's Preparedness Division since 2013. Previously, she served as director of the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Prior to working for the state of Missouri she spent 10 years as the executive director of the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in Jefferson City. She also served on the American Red Cross national Critical Response Team and as the State of Missouri Red Cross disaster and government liaison. Friel also served as a caseworker for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services program, supporting military families throughout mid-Missouri.

Friel has served as member of the Missouri Homeland Security Advisory Committee, the Governor's Faith Based and Community Services Partnership for Disaster Recovery and the Missouri State Mass Care Committee. She served as chair of the Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

SEMA's emergency management training curriculum offers an array of training for state and local emergency managers, public officials, members of volunteer assistance organizations and professionals in related fields. The training program offers comprehensive courses in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

SEMA's exercise team provides support to local jurisdictions, regional and state agencies, and volunteer and community organizations to design, conduct and evaluate all levels of emergency exercises for threats ranging from local hazmat events to a major earthquake requiring a statewide response.

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SEMA Preparedness Division

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RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (REP) PROGRAM

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program develops plans, training and exercises to assist jurisdictions surrounding commercial nuclear power plants and to prepare for potential scenarios that might occur. There are two that affect Missouri: Ameren's Callaway Energy Center in Callaway County and Nebraska Public Power's Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownsville, NE, which could potentially impact Atchison and other counties in northwest Missouri.

ALL-HAZARD PLANNING PROGRAM

The All-Hazard Planning Program has primary responsibility for providing planning guidance and assistance to state departments, agencies and to local governments so they can develop and maintain all-hazards (e.g., tornadoes, severe weather, flooding, earthquakes) emergency operations plans. SEMA planners are assigned to specific regions to establish bonds with local planners and create a common understanding of local hazards and resources.

MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM

The Medical Countermeasures Program manages the planning, receipt, distribution and storage of pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies and equipment necessary to respond to a major emergency or disaster. These supplies are provided through the federal Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program, a national repository of critical drugs and medical supplies designed to supplement and resupply state and local public health agencies and hospitals in a major emergency. The goal is to deliver lifesaving pharmaceuticals to any location within 12 hours if necessary.

EARTHQUAKE PROGRAM

SEMA's Earthquake Program informs Missourians about the earthquake risk associated with the New Madrid Seismic Zone and recommends safety and mitigation steps that can be taken to prepare for earthquakes and their potential consequences. The program also provides operational oversight and administrative support to

SEMA Preparedness Myths and Facts

MYTH: The only time SEMA works with non-government partner organizations, like the American Red Cross, is after a disaster.

FACT: SEMA's Emergency Human Services section works with non-government and faith-based partners everyday through organizations like the Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, the Missouri Interfaith Disaster Response Organization and the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery. The partnerships and relationships created during "blue skies" ensure the best possible response during disasters and recovery after.

the 1,000-member Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition authorized by Section 44.023, RSMo. This statute establishes a volunteer cadre for post-disaster building inspections to determine if damaged buildings are safe to occupy.

SEMA provides administrative support to the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission which was established by Section 44.227, RSMo, to initiate a comprehensive program to help Missouri prepare for and respond to a major earthquake. The commission also prepares and updates a strategic plan for reducing earthquake hazards in the state.

SHOW-ME RESPONSE

Show-Me Response is Missouri's version of the federal Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) program. Working with key partners across the state, Show-Me Response uses a secure web-based platform to support the efficient registration, professional credentialing, management and activation of pre-registered volunteers, as well as those who register at the time of a disaster.

More than 9,200 volunteers are currently registered in Show-Me Response, including over 400 physicians and 3,200 registered nurses.

Hazmat Symposium Moves to SEMA Conference

More than 80 Missouri hazardous materials emergency responders gathered for the 2016 State Hazmat Symposium held in Columbia from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. Sponsored by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission, the conference was open to emergency managers, first responders and others involved hazardous materials emergency response.

As discussed for more than a year, this was the last time the symposium, previously held every other year, was a standalone event. Next year, the symposium content will become part of the annual SEMA conference. The 2017 conference is set for Aug. 22-25 at the Lake of the Ozarks.

"We are constantly looking for ways to do things more efficiently and cost effectively," Kirchhoff said. "By moving the hazmat symposium to the SEMA conference, we can achieve both objectives. An added benefit is that we can offer our hazmat preparedness and response folks something every year, rather than every other year."

Missouri Receives \$4 Million AmeriCorps Grant

On Oct. 27, Gov. Jay Nixon announced Missouri has received a \$4 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to support 693 AmeriCorps members working in communities across the state.

Following disasters, AmeriCorps St. Louis has been an important partner in Missouri's coordinated disaster response efforts. After the May 22, 2011 EF-5 Joplin tornado, AmeriCorps was tasked with registering and managing the thousands of volunteers who streamed into southwest Missouri to help with tornado response and recovery efforts. Over the first six months alone, more than 113,000 registered volunteers provided over 688,000 hours of volunteer labor.

AmeriCorps also works on environmental conservation projects and helps meet critical unmet needs in poor communities, particularly of children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

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More information can be found on Missouri's **Stormaware.mo.gov** website, which includes detailed videos and other useful resources about tornado sirens and weather alert radios. The site also includes links to free severe weather texting services that can alert people across Missouri to upcoming severe weather.

The National Weather Service provides safety tips and educational information about each day of Severe Weather Awareness Week on the St. Louis Forecast Office site:

<https://www.weather.gov/lxx/severeweek>.

Storm Safety and Personal Protection Measures

- **Tornado Watch** means tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to radio or television for updates.
- **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.
- The safest shelter location is an interior room without windows on the lowest floor.
- Immediately leave a mobile home to seek shelter in a nearby building.
- Seeking shelter under overpasses is not safe. They can cause a dangerous wind tunnel effect.
- If you are driving, stop and take shelter in a nearby building.
- If you are driving in a rural area, drive away from the tornado to the closest building. If you cannot get away, seek shelter in a ditch. Protect yourself from flying debris by covering your head with your arms, a coat or a blanket. Be prepared to move quickly in case the ditch fills with water.
- Flash flooding kills more people than any other severe weather hazard. Never drive or walk into flood waters. Less than a foot of moving water is enough to push a vehicle.

'Missouri Hope' Exercise

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Students from NWMSU's emergency disaster management program coordinate response efforts during the 2016 Missouri Hope exercise, Oct. 7-9 in Nodaway County. Photo by Bill Brinton.

The 2016 Missouri Hope exercise drew about 500 participants, including students, educators, volunteers and professionals. Joining the NWMSU students were students from similar programs at other Missouri colleges, as well as students from New York, Washington D.C., Michigan and North Carolina.

The primary purpose of the intensive exercise is to teach students how to launch a well-coordinated response to a complex disaster. It also provides students with a unique opportunity to work closely with professionals and be exposed to challenges they could someday face during a real disaster.

Participation is required for NWMSU students who are working toward degrees in emergency and disaster management. In addition to their degrees, NWMSU students in the program can also earn National Registry Emergency Medical Technician certification and qualify to become licensed emergency medical technicians in Missouri.

A REALISTIC TRAINING EXPERIENCE

To provide a realistic training environment, Missouri Hope organizers created the fictitious town of Redden Village, which was inhabited by about 100 volunteer role players. The exercise scenario had severe storms spawn two tornadoes that touch down at Redden Village, causing multiple injuries, building collapses, fires and flash flooding.

The student emergency managers and first responders had to evaluate and address multiple problems, including providing emergency medical care to volunteers wearing theatrical makeup.

According to Buchanan County EMD Bill Brinton, the Missouri Hope exercise offers another opportunity for partner agencies to work together to test and refine their disaster response plans. Brinton was a member of the original planning team and has participated in all four of the exercises.

"Organizing this exercise takes a lot of hard work and close collaboration, but it pays huge dividends in so many different ways," Brinton said. "The students get valuable hands-on training and experience in a very realistic setting and the professionals get much-needed practice in procedures and techniques that save lives in real emergencies."

Region H's four mobile hospital assets were set up and used during the exercise. The units are based in Maryville, Cameron, St. Joseph and Bethany. Funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the emergency medical tents are operated by trained professionals and come stocked with basic life-saving medical supplies, along with communications equipment and generators.

Partner agencies that participated in the exercise included the Maryville Department of Public Safety, Nodaway County and Buchanan County emergency management agencies, Nodaway County Ambulance District, LifeFlight and LifeNet air ambulances, Missouri Region H Marine Hazmat Team, the Missouri Army National Guard's 1-129th Field Artillery Battalion and the Missouri Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing.

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Safer, Stronger Missouri Week

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Don Atteberry describes how he survived the Joplin tornado to Gov. Jay Nixon.

One of the most inspiring moments came during the Joplin tour, when Gov. Nixon met with 94-year-old Don Atteberry. Joplin has become known around the world for the outpouring of support and assistance from volunteers who helped speed the recovery. In Atteberry's case, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri led the effort to assist in rebuilding his house, utilizing skilled Mennonite volunteers. Catholic Charities' employee Scott Decker, who is Mormon, was a leader in the effort.

The Governor said the effort was emblematic of the cooperation and coordination among Missouri's faith-based groups that have led to Missouri being recognized as a national model in partnering with faith-based and volunteer groups on disaster recovery.

"No function of government is more important than keeping the public safe and secure, no matter if the threat is severe weather or a potential public health emergency," Gov. Nixon said. "Whether it's a tornado, a flood, an ice storm, or any other type of disaster, Missouri's emergency managers, public health officials, first responders, and faith-based and volunteer organizations have repeatedly shown the ability not only to quickly respond, but to help our communities recover and build Missouri safer and stronger. I am extremely proud of their hard work over the last eight years, which has created an extremely well-coordinated response and recovery system that is a model for other states."

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Gov. Nixon participated in a roundtable at the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory in Jefferson City highlighting the coordination among state and local public health organizations to respond to public health emergencies, including Missouri's H1N1 response and designation as both a Zika and Ebola sample testing laboratory by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC designation means the Missouri lab is able to provide Zika and Ebola testing, ensuring Missourians get timely and accurate results. The discussion included preparation for public health emergencies, including food-borne illnesses.

JOPLIN TORNADO RECOVERY WALK

Before dawn on Oct. 25, Gov. Nixon and Department of Public Safety Director Lane Roberts walked three miles of the path of the May 22, 2011 EF-5 tornado that destroyed much of Joplin and claimed 161 lives. The walk not only highlighted Joplin's tremendous recovery, but gave the Governor and Roberts the chance to reconnect with some of the survivors they had worked with over the years.

SEVERE WEATHER PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS

Gov. Nixon visited Carthage Middle School, in Carthage, to announce he was advancing plans for a tornado safe room there and at the Purdy R-2 School District Campus in Barry County. Missouri currently has 195 completed safe rooms across the state. Since Gov. Nixon took office, he has approved or Missouri has moved forward with 190 community safe room projects, 125 of which are in schools, utilizing FEMA hazard mitigation grant funds. In all, the completed projects and those being designed and constructed in the state would be capable of protecting more than 215,000 Missourians.

GOVERNOR'S FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

At the nonprofit relief agency Convoy of Hope in Springfield, Gov. Nixon participated in a roundtable with a diverse group of Missouri's faith-based and volunteer groups that are critical to Missouri's disaster response and recovery.

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Safer, Stronger Missouri Week

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In addition to top leadership from Convoy of Hope, participants included leading representatives of the Governor's Faith-Based & Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, United Way, AmeriCorps and Habitat for Humanity

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

At the Sikeston Department of Public Safety, Gov. Nixon was updated on Missouri's interoperable radio communications system, known as MOSWIN (Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network).

Following Gov. Nixon's approval in 2009, Sikeston DPS served as the pilot site as Missouri built MOSWIN, an \$87 million network of communications towers, base stations and communications software that allow both state and local public safety agencies to have interoperable communications across the state. Currently 1,147 agencies in the state have access to MOSWIN.

DISASTER PET SHELTERING

At the Humane Society of Missouri in St. Louis, Gov. Nixon participated in a roundtable on Missouri's expansion of disaster pet rescue and sheltering operations. The ability to shelter pets on-site or close to shelters for residents evacuated during a disaster can be a key not only to protecting pets and relieving anxiety among pet owners, but in getting residents in unsafe areas to evacuate. During the historic flooding from December 2015 to January 2016, the Humane Society helped lead an effort that sheltered more than 80 dogs and cats whose families had no place to house them.

EXPANDING MASS CARE (SHELTERING AND FEEDING) CAPABILITIES

At Crown Pointe Church in Lee's Summit, Gov. Nixon took part in a roundtable with area volunteer and faith-based organizations, in addition to emergency response agencies highlighting the expansion of disaster sheltering and feeding capabilities. In August, Jackson County and Missouri state response partners took part in a mass care exercise that utilized more than 500 volunteers to



From left, DPS Director Lane Roberts, Gov. Jay Nixon, and First Lady Georganne Nixon (holding a puppy) at Missouri Humane Society headquarters in St. Louis.

mobilize resources to receive and shelter hundreds of disaster evacuees based on the evacuees' needs. Since 2009, Missouri's disaster sheltering capacity has increased from less than 10,000 to more than 51,000 today. In eastern Jackson County, sheltering capacity has increased from 200 people in 2009, to 16,000 today.

LEVEE PROTECTION FOR VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND

In Buchanan County, Gov. Nixon participated in a roundtable involving local officials, public safety leaders, farmers and Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association officials to discuss continuing efforts to protect farms, homes and businesses. In 2011, Gov. Nixon led efforts to provide financial assistance to levee and drainage districts that sustained damage as a result of historic flooding, leading to rebuilding stronger and safer levees. Over \$6 million was provided from community development block grants to assist several Missouri towns and counties repair or replace roads, bridges, levees and other public infrastructure damaged or destroyed by flood waters. In October 2016, Gov. Nixon approved \$5 million in general revenue funds for a levee flood control project to help protect Rosecrans Memorial Airport and the Air National Guard base located there, as well as farms and homes in the area.

Earthquake Awareness Month

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Information about the science and history of earthquakes in Missouri is available on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' website at: dnr.mo.gov/geology/geosrv/earthquakes.htm.

Earthquake Preparedness Tips

- Put together a home emergency kit, including a flashlight, first aid kit, radio, drinking water and blankets.
- Develop a family communication plan. Identify a relative living at least 100 miles away who everyone can call to tell family you're safe.
- Bolt bookcases to wall studs, install strong latches on cupboards and strap water heaters to wall studs – if it tips over it could start a fire or gas leak, and you could lose a valuable source of emergency water.
- Know how to turn off your gas and water.
- Understand that most homeowner insurance policies don't include earthquake coverage. It must be purchased as separate coverage, called an "endorsement." This type of insurance requires that the earthquake is the direct cause of damage to the property. The Missouri Department of Insurance has more at: insurance.mo.gov/consumers/home/EQTa ble.php.

NYC Uses Twitter

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SETTING UP TWITTER ALERTS

Twitter alerts are published by select public agencies and emergency organizations during a crisis or emergency. They contain up-to-date information relevant to an unfolding event, such as public safety warnings and evacuation instructions. Alerts will appear highlighted on your home Twitter timeline and are instantly sent to your device as a mobile notification.

Any Twitter account can receive alerts, though sending alerts is currently limited to select public agencies and emergency organizations internationally. While Twitter alerts can help the public be better prepared and informed, they do not replace official emergency notification systems or services. Alerts should be used in support of established information sources. Public agencies interested becoming a Twitter alerts partner can submit a request on Twitter's alerts partner portal at: <https://about.twitter.com/products/alerts>.

There is a difference between Twitter alerts and regular tweet notifications. When you enable notifications for tweets from an individual account you're following, you receive a mobile notification for every tweet they send. Alerts, however, are high-priority tweets from select public agencies and public safety organizations, sent to you as mobile notifications only during emergencies. Twitter alerts are also highlighted on your home timeline.

How to Receive Twitter Alerts

1. Go to the Twitter alerts setup page for the organization from which you wish to receive alerts. Example: twitter.com/fema/alerts.
2. Log in with your Twitter account. If you don't have an account, you will be prompted to sign up for one.
3. To receive alerts via text messages, enter or confirm your current phone number and activate Twitter text messaging.
4. If you have the official Twitter for Android or iOS app downloaded on your phone, you will start to receive alerts as push notifications.